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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/680,140	10/08/2003	Takao Murakami	Q77881	5085
23373	7590	07/14/2004	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			HARVEY, JAMES R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/680,140

Applicant(s)

MURAKAMI, TAKAO

Examiner

James R. Harvey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on papers originally filed 10-8-03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10-8-03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

- The Information Disclosure statement(s) and related documents that were filed on 10-8-03 have been considered.

Priority

- Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

- The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - There appears to be a typographical error on page 1, line 10 of applicant's specification. "Figs. 1 and 6" should be "Figs. 5 and 6".
 - Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

- Figure(s) 5 and 6 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
- The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.
 - In reference to Claim(s) 3, the recitation "protrusion" is not shown in the drawings.

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- **Please note that drawing corrections will no longer be held in abeyance. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.**
- **If drawing correction are not submitted with the response to this office action, the response will be consider a Non-Responsive Reply and the following paragraph will apply:**

The reply filed on (...) is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because: (...) Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Claim Objections

- Claim(s) 3-5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

-- In reference to Claim(s) 3, the recitation "protrusion" is not defined in the specification or drawings. For purposes of examination, it is assumed that the language is intended to mean a portion projecting from a narrow portion as defined on page 9, line 9 of applicant's specification.

An examination based on the merits, as best understood, is addressed below.

-- Appropriate response to the above is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

** Claim(s) 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bird et al. (4376565).

-- In reference to Claim(s) 1, Bird shows (figures 1 and 4)

a first connector housing 12, comprising a first guide member 70 (figure 4) extending in a first direction, and

a second connector housing 14, adapted to be fitted with the first connector housing in the first direction, the second connector housing comprising a second guide member 86 (figure 1) extending in the first direction,

wherein the first guide member 70 and the second guide member 86 are so configured as to guide a fitting operation of the first connector housing and the second connector housing while being brought into points or line contact with each other.

The recitation “so configured as to guide” and the language used after the recitation has been given little patentable weight because it is seen as to only define the intended use of the claimed structure.

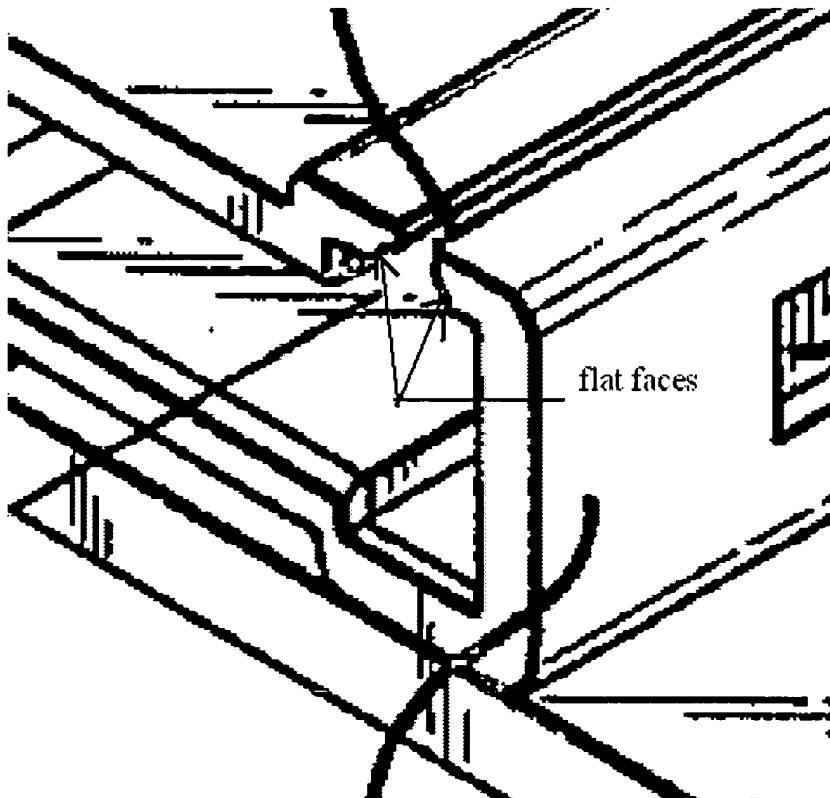
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-- In reference to Claim(s) 2, Bird shows (figure 4) the first guide member 70 is a rib member and the second guide member is a groove 86 into which the rib member is inserted while being guided (figure 1).

-- In reference to Claim(s) 3, Bird shows the rib member is formed with protrusions 80 (figure 4), and the groove 86 is formed with flat faces (see examiner's figure) on which the protrusions 80 are slid when the fitting operation is performed.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 4, Bird shows the protrusions 80 are formed on the rib member 70, and a proximal portion (the portion proximal to the free end) of each of the protrusions 80 is narrowed.

-- In reference to Claim(s) 5, Bird shows the protrusions 80 extend from a rear portion of the first connector 12, in the first direction, to the front portion of the first connector 12.



Conclusion

Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent related matters must now be addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

For additional information regarding the new address, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

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- The prior art listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention. Lee shows (cover sheet) a groove 26, rib 41, projection (near the lead line of numeral 25 (figure 4)) and flat face (the intersection of the element (near the lead line of numeral 41 (figure 4) and (near the lead line of numeral 25). Locati shows (cover sheet) a rib 76, groove (near the lead line of numeral 65), and protrusions 98 on the rib 76.
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 703-305-0958. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

- **Effective October 1, 2003**, all patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, **(703) 872-9306**, with a few exceptions. See *Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700*, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 140 (August 29, 2000). Replies to Office actions including after-final amendments that are transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh
July 9, 2004


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER